Assessing Evidence to Strengthen Locally Led Development in Conflict and Post-Conflict Environments



Project Title	Assessing Evidence to Strengthen Locally Led Development in Conflict and Post-Conflict Environments
Project Summary	Seeking a creative and driven intern to help USAID's Office of Local Sustainability explore Agency-wide learning around opportunities and challenges of the application of locally led development principles and practices in fragile, conflict-affected, and non-permissive environments.
Country	United States

Project Description

The Office of Local Sustainability, within USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment (E3/LS), supports locally led development and enhances USAID's ability to empower local actors to take the lead in solving their own development challenges. In the first four years of its flagship Local Works program, 24 Missions have been provided with knowledge, skills, tools, and resources to ensure that development assistance is locally led and advances self-reliance.

As the reach of the program expands towards increasingly sensitive operating environments, further analysis is necessary to identify lessons learned across the Agency while building local ownership in conflict-affected contexts, and to refine conflict-sensitive approaches to engaging local actors as leaders in development.

E3/LS seeks an intern to assist in better understanding risks and opportunities inherent in promoting locally led development in conflict and post-conflict environments.

After initial desk review synthesizing current literature exploring the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus, the intern will develop a research plan in collaboration with E3/LS, and will be connected with Missions and Operating Units across the Agency as appropriate, in order to gather and assess key evidence, good practices, relevant approaches, and promising programming options.

Inquiries to potentially explore within the research scope include, but are not limited to:

- -What are the key challenges associated with promoting locally led development in conflict and post-conflict settings, and what has been effective in addressing these challenges?
- -What are key opportunities for locally led development to contribute to elevate the agency of local actors, strengthen resilience, and work towards systemic change in contexts with weak state systems and governance?
- -What has been learned about how approaches to engaging local actors should be adapted to ensure conflict-sensitive, trauma-sensitive, and do no harm principles are fully integrated at all stages of activities?
- -How can locally led development approaches be responsive to reducing risk, vulnerability, and drivers of

conflict?

In addition to contributing important analysis and recommendations towards future locally led development programming in conflict-affected areas, the intern will benefit from mentoring and networking opportunities and immersive learning about the work done by USAID, particularly approaches to promoting local sustainability.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Analytical writing

Cultural diplomacy

Data analysis

Research

Additional Information

Students in undergraduate and graduate international development programs, especially security, sustainable development, and peace and conflict studies, are encouraged to apply!

Preferred Skills:

- -Strong organizational and interpersonal skills.
- -Strong research and analysis skills.
- -Ability to work both independently and collaboratively on assigned tasks in a virtual environment.
- -Ability to meet deadlines and produce quality work.
- -Familiarity with word processing, spreadsheet, and/or database software.
- -Comfort using Google Docs and other online collaboration tools.

Preferred Interests:

- -Locally led development
- -Social inclusion
- -Sustainable development

Learn more about USAID's Office of Local Sustainability online today!

Language Requirements